

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating ~~network-initiated~~ bearer setup initiated by a network of a bearer between a communication node and a correspondent node, said bearer being a connection to at least a mobile node and including factors that affect data transmission on the connection, through operation of a selected bearer manager, the bearer manager to control bearer setup and to create bearers, wherein the communication node is selectably operable to communicate by means of a communication network with the correspondent node, the apparatus comprising:

a first bearer setup request generator associated with a first application-level entity, said first bearer setup request generator configured to:

generate a first application-level bearer setup request to induce a bearer manager to create a bearer between a first node and a second node, wherein the first bearer setup request is free of network address identifiers for the bearer manager; and [[to]]

provide the first application-level bearer setup request to a transport-level entity, wherein the transport-level entity comprises an AAA (Authentication Authorization Accounting) entity[[,]] and the first bearer setup request for requesting the selected bearer manager to create the bearer between the communication node and the correspondent node, and the first bearer setup request, when generated at the first application-level entity, is free of a network address identifying the network location of the selected bearer manager.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises an application level and a transport level, wherein the first application-level entity forms a portion of the application level, and wherein said first bearer setup request generator forms a portion of the application level.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the transport-level AAA (Authentication Authorization Accounting) entity is separate from the first application-level entity.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating ~~network-initiated~~ bearer setup initiated by a network of a bearer between a communication node and a correspondent node, said bearer being a connection to at least a mobile node and including factors that affect data transmission on the connection, through operation of a selected bearer manager, the bearer manager to control bearer setup and to create bearers, wherein the communication node is selectably operable to communicate by means of a communication network with the correspondent node, the apparatus comprising:

a first bearer setup request generator associated with a first application-level entity, said first bearer setup request generator configured to:

generate a first application-level bearer setup request to induce a bearer manager to create a bearer between a first node and a second node, wherein the first bearer setup request is free of network address identifiers for the bearer manager; and ~~[[to]]~~

provide the first application-level bearer setup request to a transport-level entity, ~~the first bearer setup request for requesting the selected bearer manager to create the bearer between the communication node and the correspondent node, and the first bearer setup request, when generated at the first application-level entity, being free of a network address identifying the network location of the selected bearer manager; and~~

a second bearer setup request generator associated with ~~the an~~ AAA entity ~~and coupled to receive an indication of the first bearer setup request generated by said first bearer setup request generator, said~~ the second bearer request generator configured to:

generate, upon receiving an indication of the first bearer setup request, a transport-level bearer setup request to induce the bearer manager to create the bearer between the first node and the second node, the transport-level bearer setup request for delivery to the selected bearer manager to request the selected bearer

~~manager, when delivered thereat, to create the bearer between the communication node and the correspondent node.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the ~~communication~~ network comprises a first network portion and at least a second network portion, the first network portion defining a home network of the ~~communication~~ first node, and the second network portion defining a visited network of the ~~communication~~ first node, and wherein the first application-level entity with which said first bearer setup request generator is associated and the AAA entity with which said ~~transport-level~~ second bearer setup request generator is associated are positioned within the visited network portion.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the AAA entity comprises a home-network AAA entity and a visited network AAA entity, and wherein the first bearer setup request is sent by said first bearer setup request generator to the home-network AAA entity.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said second bearer setup request ~~message~~ generator is to generate the transport-level bearer setup request by way of the visited-network AAA entity to the selected bearer manager.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the transport-level bearer setup request message to be generated by said second bearer setup request message generator comprises an AAA-protocol message.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the selected bearer manager to which the transport-level bearer request is to be delivered is to generate a response message, and wherein said second bearer setup request generator is further to detect the response message.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the response message to be generated by the selected bearer forms an AAA-protocol message.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said second bearer setup request generator is further to return an indication of the response message to said first bearer setup request generator.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first bearer setup request message generator is further to generate an application-level message for communication to the communication node, the application-level message indicative of said response message.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating ~~network-initiated~~ bearer setup of a network bearer ~~between a communication node and a correspondent node, said bearer being a connection to at least a mobile node and including factors that affect data transmission on the connection, through operation of a selected bearer manager, the bearer manager to control bearer setup and to create bearers, wherein the communication node is selectably operable to communicate by way of a communication network with the correspondent node, the method~~ comprising:

selectably generating a first application-level bearer setup request to induce a bearer manager to create a bearer between a first node and a second node ~~at a first application-level entity, the first application-level bearer setup request for requesting the selected bearer manager to create the bearer between the communication node and the correspondent node, and the first bearer setup request, when generated at the first application-level entity, being free of a network address identifying the network location of the selected bearer manager; and~~

providing the first application-level bearer setup request, ~~generated during said selectably generating, to a transport-level entity wherein the transport-level entity comprises an AAA~~

(Authentication Authorization Accounting) entity.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~17, further comprising routing, from the transport-level AAA entity, a separate-level signaling-layer request signal to the ~~selected~~ bearer manager.

20. (Cancelled)